

The history

Where is my wit? I know not what I speake, (wisely,

Tro. Well know they what they speake, that speake so

Cres. Perchance my Lord I show more craft then loue,
And fell so roundly to a large confession.

To angle for your thoughts, but you are wise,
Or else you loue not: for to be wise and loue,
Exceeds mans might that dwells with gods above,

Tro. O that I thought it could be in a woman.

As if it can I will presume in you,
To feed for age her lampe and flames of loue.

To keepe her constancy in plight and youth.

Out-living beauties outward, with a mind,

That doth renew swifter then blood decays,

Or that persuation could but thus conuince me,

That my integrity and truth to you,

Might be affronted with the match and waight,

O such a winnowed purity in loue,

How were I then vp-lifted! but alas,

I am as true as truths simplicity,

And simpler then the infancy of truth.

Cres. In that ile war with you, *Tro.* O vertuous fight,

When right with right waies who shal be most right,

True swains in loue shal in the world to come

Approoue their trueth by *Troilus*, when their rimes,

Full of protest, of oath and big compare,

Wants simele's truth tyrd with iteration.

As true as Steele, as plantage to the moone.

As sunne to day: as turtle to her mate,

As Iron to Adamant: as Earth to th' Center,

After all comparisons of truth.

(As truths authentique author to be cited)

As true as *Troilus*, shal crowne vp the verse,

And sanctifie the numbers,

Cres. Prophet may you bee,

If I bee false or swaue a hayre from truth,

When time is ould or hath forgot it selfe,

When water drops haue worn the stones of Troy,

And blind obliuion swallowed Citties vp.

of Troilus and Cressida.

And mighty states character-les are grated,

To dusty nothing, yet let memory,

From false to false among false mayds in loue,

Vpbraid my falsehood, when th' haue said as false,

As ayre, as water, wind or sandy earth,

As Fox to Lambe, or Wolfe to Heifers Calfe,

Pard to the Hind, or stepdame to her Sonne,

Yea let them say to sticke the heart of falsehood,

As false as *Cressid*.

Pand. Go to a bargaine made, scale it, scale it ile bee the

witnes here I hold your hand, here my Cozens, if euer you

proue false one, to another since I haue taken such paine to

bring you together let all pittifull goers betweene be cald

to the worlds end after my name, call them all Panders, let

all constant men be Troylustes all false woemen *Cressids*, and

all brokers betweene panders; say Amen.

Tro. Amen.

Cres. Amen.

Pand. Amen.

Wherevpon I will shew you a Chamber, which bed be-
cause it shall not speake of your pretie encounters presse it to
death; away. *Exeunt.*

And Cupid grant all tong-tide maydens here,

Bed, chamber, Pander to prouide this geere. *Exit.*

Enter Vlisses, Diomed, Nestor, Agamem, Chalcas.

Cal. Now Princes for the seruice I haue done,

Th' aduantage of the time prompts me aloud,

To call for recompence: appere it to mind,

That through the sight I beare in things to loue,

I haue abandond Troy, left my possession,

Incurd a traytors name, exposd my selfe,

From certaine and possesse conueniences,

To doubtfull fortunes, sequestering from me all,

That time acquaintance, custome and condition,

Made tame, and most familiar to my nature:

And here to doe you seruice am become;

As new into the world, strange, vnacquainted,

I do beseech you as in way of tast,

To giue me now a little benefit.

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Out